

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07898 270958Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /056 W
-----280210Z 076935 /72

R 270909Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8166
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, JA
SUBJECT: SOCIALIST CITIZENS' LEAGUE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED

REF: TOKYO 7537

SUMMARY. SOCIALIST CITIZENS' LEAGUE (SCL) WAS LEGALLY
REGISTERED AS POLITICAL ORGANIZATION MAY 25. IN
SATSUKI EDA, YOUNG SON OF LATE SCL FOUNDER, NEW GROUPING
HAS ATTRACTIVE STANDARD BEARER. SCL LACKS FUNDS AND HAS
NO SUPPORT FROM BIG LABOR, SO WILL DEPEND ON ITS APPEAL
TO FLOATING VOTERS FOR SUCCESS IN JULY UPPER HOUSE
ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. SOCIALIST CITIZENS' LEAGUE (SCL), GROUPING FOUNDED
BY JSP DEFECTOR AND FORMER JSP VICE CHAIRMAN SABURO EDA,
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WAS OFFICIALLY INAUGURATED ON MAY 25, THREE DAYS AFTER EDA'S
DEATH. DELEGATES FROM SEVERAL PREFECTURES ATTENDED
MEETING AND APPROVED THREE-MAN LEADERSHIP TROIKA COMPOSED
OF: EDA-FACTION DIETMAN SHIGEO OSHIBA, WHO LEFT JSP
TO JOIN SCL; NAOTO KAN, YOUNG CITIZEN'S MOVEMENT ACTIVIST WHO
WILL RUN FOR UPPER HOUSE FROM TOKYO; AND SATSUKI EDA (36), WHO
RESIGNED ASSISTANT JUDGESHIP TO REPLACE LATE FATHER AS UPPER

HOUSE NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY CANDIDATE. SCL HAS SO FAR NAMED SIX UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATES (AVERAGE AGE 41) AND SAID IT WILL FIELD FOUR MORE SOON.

2. INAUGURAL MEETING WAS FOLLOWED BY MAMMOTH MOURNING CEREMONY/INAUGURAL CELEBRATION ATTENDED BY ROUGHLY FIFTEEN HUNDRED IN HOTEL BALLROOM. LATE EDA EULOGIZED BY, AMONG OTHERS, LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER HORI, CGP SEC GEN YANO, AND SON. EMBOFFS AND OTHERS HEARINGS SON'S MAIDEN SPEECH ALL GOT STRONG IMPRESSION YOUNG EDA, WHO HAS NO POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND WHO LACKS FATHER'S COMMON TOUCH, WILL NEVERTHELESS BE STRONG CANDIDATE. HE IS ATTRACTIVE NEW FACE WITH "CLEAN" IMAGE AND FAMOUS NAME." HIS PRESTIGIOUS JUDICIAL BACKGROUND AND WIDESPREAD SYMPATHY FOR FATHER ENHANCE THESE VOTE-GETTING ASSETS. SOME OBSERVERS EVEN SAY EDA WILL TOP LIST OF NATIONAL CONSTITUENCY WINNERS DOING BETTER THAN FATHER WOULD HAVE.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO SANKEI SHIMBUN POLL PUBLISHED MAY 26, 68 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WHO FAVORED YOUNG EDA IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS NON-COMMITTED AND ONLY SEVEN PERCENT IDENTIFIED AS JSP SUPPORTERS. LIKE NEW LIBERAL CLUB, IF SCL IS TO DO WELL IT WILL HAVE TO WOO THE URBAN AND SUBURBAN FLOATING VOTE. FATHER'S GOOD LABOR CONNECTIONS, PARTICULARLY WITH ELECTRICAL WORKERS, DID NOT PASS TO SON. WHAT LITTLE LABOR SUPPORT SCL GETS WILL COME FROM INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISE UNIONS. LIKEWISE, FATHER'S CONSIDERABLE SOURCES OF FUNDING IN BUSINESS WORLD ALSO ENDED WITH HIS DEATH.

LACK OF THESE ASSETS MIGHT INDEED PROVE CRITICAL
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EVENTUALLY BUT SCL HAS AT LEAST COME THROUGH BIGGEST THREAT TO ITS EXISTENCE SO FAR BY SURVIVING DEATH OF FOUNDER WITHOUT LOSING ITS MOMENTUM.
SHOESMITH

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